131
131 this area is waterless and uninhabited. In the center is a
312 ring of pans and a series of waterholes which support at
133 present a population of 1,200 !Kung Bushmen. They occupy an
[162] area of about 3,500 square miles (70 miles from east to west
x 50 miles from north to south). This central complex of
water sources is surrounded by a belt of waterless, uninhabited
country that varies in width from sixty miles, on the east
and north, to over one hundred miles on the west and south.
Access to the interior is limited. One line of wells links
Tsumkwe in the interior with Grootfontein on the west.

[491] Two rarely used motor tracks join the interior with the
Okavango swamp to the east. A police patrol road cut in
1954-55 runs from south to north along the B.P./S.W.A. border.
The maximum vehicle speed obtainable on these tracks is 20 mph
[177] and trucks pass through about once a month. The difficulty
of the terrain, the lack of farming potential, and the scarcity
of water have deterred European and Bantu penetration of the
area.

[114] The distinction between periphery and interior has been
applied to the country of the central !Kung by John Marshall
(1957) and Lorna Marshall (1960:327ff). The present usage
differs from that of the Marshalls. They applied the term
"interior" to the Nyae Nyae ring of pans and regarded the
waterholes at /"ai/"ai, /Gam, and !angwa as peripheral. Since